

CLAIMS

1. A method for processing two or more messages for transmission to one or more recipients, comprising:

identifying a set of one or more attributes of the messages;

5 establishing a transmission criteria for selecting the messages for transmission based on the attributes of the messages;

determining the set of attributes for each of the messages;

organizing the messages according to the set of attributes for each of the messages;

10 storing the organized messages on a shared storage device; and

selecting the organized messages from the shared storage device for transmission according to the criteria.

2. A method according the claim 1, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

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3. A method according to claim 1, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined for the message,
5 and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

4. A method according to claim 1, in which the messages are organized so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

5. A method according to claim 4, in which each file contains no more than a
10 predetermined number of messages.

6. A method according to claim 4, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

7. A system for processing two or more messages for transmission to one or
15 more recipients comprised of:

a processor that determines one or more attributes for each of the messages and organizes the messages according to the attributes of each message;

a shared storage device that stores the organized messages until the messages are selected for transmission; and

a selector that selects the organized messages from the shared storage device for transmission according to a transmission criteria based on the attributes of the messages.

8. A system according to claim 7, in which the set of one or more attributes
5 is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time the set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

10 9. A system according the claim 7, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

15 10. A system according to claim 7, in which the processor organizes the messages so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

11. A system according to claim 10, in which each file contains no more than a predetermined number of messages.

12. A system according to claim 10, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

13. A method for organizing two or more messages for transmission to one or
5 more recipients, comprising:

identifying a set of one or more attributes of the messages;

determining the attributes for each of the messages;

organizing the messages according to the attributes of each message; and

storing the organized messages on a shared storage device.

10 14. A method according the claim 13, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time the set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be
15 transmitted to its recipient.

15. A method according the claim 13, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined
20 for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

16. A method according to claim 13, in which the messages are organized so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

17. A method according to claim 16, in which each file contains no more than
5 a predetermined number of messages.

18. A method according to claim 16, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

19. A method for determining the sequence of two or more messages for
10 transmission to one or more recipients, comprising:

establishing a transmission criteria for selecting the messages from a shared storage device for transmission based on a set of one or more attributes of the messages; and

15 selecting the organized messages from the shared storage device for transmission according to the criteria.

20. A method according the claim 19, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time the set
20 of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

21. A method according to claim 19, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined
5 for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

22. A method according to claim 19, in which the messages are organized so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

23. A method according to claim 22, in which each file contains no more than
10 a predetermined number of messages.

24. A method according to claim 22, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

25. A system for organizing two or more messages for transmission to one or
15 more recipients, comprising:

a processor that determines one or more attributes for each of the messages and organizes the messages according to the attributes of each message;
and

a shared storage device that stores the organized messages until the
20 messages are selected for transmission.

26. A system according to claim 25, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time the set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

27. A system according the claim 25, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

28. A system according to claim 25, in which the processor organizes the messages so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

29. A system according to claim 28, in which each file contains no more than a predetermined number of messages.

30. A system according to claim 28, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

31. A system for determining the sequence of two or more messages for transmission to one or more recipients, comprising:

a selector that selects the messages from a shared storage device for transmission according to a transmission criteria based on a set of one or more attributes of the messages.

32. A system according to claim 31, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the destination of the message, the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time the set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

33. A system according the claim 31, in which the set of one or more attributes is selected from the group consisting of the priority of the message, the estimated speed of the receiving message transfer agent, the status of the receiving message transfer agent, the format of the message, the time set of attributes is determined for the message, and the time at which the message must be transmitted to its recipient.

34. A system according to claim 31, in which a processor first organizes the messages so that each message is placed into a file that contains messages with only the same set of attributes.

35. A system according to claim 34, in which each file contains no more than a predetermined number of messages.

36. A system according to claim 34, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.

36. A system according to claim 34, in which each file is stored on the shared storage device with a name that identifies one or more of the attributes for the messages in the file.